

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
6630 Fisher Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket Numbers: 98N-1230,
96P-0418, 97P-0197

To Whom it May Concern:

Sept 9 1999

2661 '99 SEP 14 P2:05

Each year the United States Egg industry force molts (intentionally starves for up to 14 days) millions of hens to manipulate Egg Production. forced Molting is so stressful it destroys the hens' immune system, predisposing the birds and their eggs to salmonella infection. The United States Department of Agriculture's food safety and inspection Service (FSIS) stated: "FSIS recognizes that public health concerns are raised by highly stressful forced Molting Practices. For example, extended starvation and water deprivation practices lead to increased shedding of Salmonella enteritidis (SE) by laying hens subjected to these Practices."

The FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practices that injure human health. Therefore, the FDA should ban the Practice of forced Molting, as it has been shown to promote disease. Force Molting of laying hens is the main cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs and consumers of Eggs. The FDA was petitioned in April 1998 to ban forced Molting. This petition should be granted without further delay.

3229 Dawson Street Sincerely,
Pittsburgh PA 15213 Ronald Wingrove

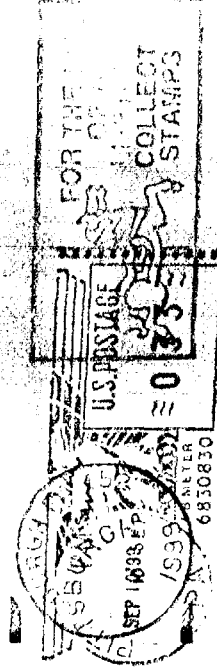
96P-0418

C 556

RONALD WINGROVE

PITTSBURGH, PA 15213

PITTSBURGH, PA 15213



11

3030 FISHERS LANE

Room 1061

Rockville, MD 20852

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C556

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C557
96P-0418/C556